Agro and Rural Industries in Chhattisgarh

1703. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Agro and Rural Industries in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether there are any potentials of developing new Agro and Rural Industries in the States;

(c) if so, what are new schemes that Government are willing to introduce in the State of Chhattisgarh; and

(d) the effect of introducing new cash crops in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The present status of Agro and Rural Industries in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last three years is given as under:

Years	Projects financed under REGP	Employment generated
2000-01	79	474
2001-02	139	4445
2002-03	216	7254

(b) Yes, Sir. There is a potential for further development of agro and rural industries in Chhattisgarh.

(c) The Khadi package announced by the Government of India *inter-alia* provides for Market Development Assistance, Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, aggressive marketing strategies, cluster development etc. It is in various stages of implementation. Besides, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) is being implemented in Chhattisgarh.

(d) Introduction of Cash crops would help in diversifying and strengthening agro and rural industries in the State.